

CAROL ELK NATION: Hello. I'm Carol Elk Nation from the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe. Good afternoon. We were talking about different areas that we think we can improve the services we provide to the members on our reservation. And one of the things we would like to let you guys know and see is if we can serve our members that are living off the reservation. Right now we serve members living here, near a reservation. We have members that would probably qualify that are living here in Rapid City and Pierre. That's one of the things the tribe members would like to let MR. Bost know. And the other thing is the way we figure out income guidelines and how we calculate that. Right now teachers can't qualify right now because we have them working year 'round, and we have to use the income for the whole year and they are on unemployment for those three months, and they use their income for the whole year. They can't qualify for assistance for those three months that they are not working.

The other thing, another thing that's a carry-over, right now we are not allowed any carry-over at all. We have to zero out our budget by the end of nine-thirty. If you could consider either giving us a -year window of funding to spend our money, our funding, because we've been getting a cut every year for the last two years maybe. We live in very remote areas, so it takes us a lot of funding to do the tailgating and stuff and with the price of gas. And when we get cut, we have to lay people off, or take our cut in the administrative dollars for costs. Or if we could even carry forward a percentage of our funding, like % of the total funding, like two hundred and sixty-three thousand, that would help. And the policy, we used to be able to use our warehouses in kind, and that was done away with quite awhile ago, and we are not having a real problem meeting our in kind. But we think the value of the land that the warehouse sits on, should be considered. And the warehouses, most of these have been in operation for a couple of decades, and the warehouses are not considered in kind. And we don't get any funding to build new warehouses.

So, I think consideration needs to be given to the warehouse for at least a salvage value or some kind of value to be placed on those warehouses. Or if they can be appraised, that would be great too. One thing we reiterate to federal agencies is when you are making a new policy and rulings, you need to keep in mind the tribesman's treaty rights versus the tribes that are non-treaty tribes. Sometimes we feel like policy is made, or rules are being made that the treaty tribes are left out, and they're not brought to the table, and that's a concern for our tribal leaders at home. We do have a government-to-government relationship on some levels, but I have to commend the USDA Food Distribution Program. I know you have always tried to work with us and we are lucky to have a national association that pays attention and assists everybody in their endeavors to provide food for their tribal members. But those are just some of the things that the tribal chairman has discussed with me. He's not available, but he wanted me to come and let MR. Bost know that those were his concerns. There is another area that came up, and MR. Gates is a tribal council member for our tribe, and he speaks on that council's directives and other legislative priorities. Thank you.